sector. The supplies of cotton yarn made to Handloom and Powerloom Sectors during last three years is as follows :

(in million Kg.)

Year	Total Cotton Yarn delivered	
	To Powerloom Sector	To Handloom Sector
1993-94	632	422
1994-95	567	438
1995-96 (Provisional)	557	493

(b) The Government has taken several measures to increase the availability fo cotton yarn e.g. (i) ensuring the availability of raw material i.e. cotton through policy interventious, whenever necessary, (ii) adoption of restrictive approach towards export of cotton yarn, to augment the availability of such yarn in the country. During the year 1996, export of cotton yarn of counts 40s and below is allowed within a quantitative ceiling of 80 million Kgs. in two equal bi-annual instalements of 40 million Kgs. each. Certain categories of cotton yarn are however exempt from the ceiling i.e. export by 100% EOUs, export by EPCG units, all exports against bilateral quotas, all exports of 41 counts and above and export of processed yarn. In an export of processed yarn. In addition, export of bank yarn in the count group 1-60s is also not allowed.

[Translation]

Assistance from National Renewal Fund

5764. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of such State Governments which have submitted proposals for getting financial assistance from the national Renewal Fund;

(b) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if no decision has been taken so far, by when the decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Proposals for financial assistance from the National Renewal Fund have been received from the Governments of the fourteen States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) and (c). The proposals of the State Governments would be taken up after guidelines and operational modalities for grant of assistance from the national Renewal Fund have been finalised.

[English]

Coal Washeries

5765. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India Limited had invited tenders for setting up washeries nearly 4 years back to meet the growing requirement of washed coal particularly by the thermal units and also to meet the requirements of minimising ash pollution as prescribed by the Environment Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in scrutinising the tenders and present status thereof; and

(d) the details of investment proposed for setting up net-work of coal washeries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). In the first instance Coal India Limited (CIL) had floated a tender enquiry inviting offers for setting up of washeries on build-own-operate basis in August, 1993. In view of inadequate response from the domestic bidders, CIL floated a global tender in June, 1994. Twelve bidders out of 14 pre-qualified bidders submitted the offers.

(c) In view of the techno-commercial offers received from the tenders not being in line with the requirement of the tender specifications and 'build-own-operate' being a new concept, clarifications had to be sought from the tenderers. As such, finalisation process took longer period.

On the basis of final evaluation of commercial bids, CIL have issued Letters of Intent to private investors during April, 1995 to June, 1995 for setting up of washeries on 'build-own-operate' basis at four sites.

(d) Total investment in the setting up these four washeries is estimated at Rs. 500 crores.

Assistance to Victims of Natural Calamities

5766. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided to the victims of natural calamities during each of the last three years, State-wise and bank-wise with particular reference to Assam; and

(b) the number of persons benefited therefrom, State-wise, particularly is Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued standing guidelines to banks in August, 1984 to be followed by them for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities/riots etc., without waiting instructions from RBI each time. These guidelines *inter-alia* envisage

(i) conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans; (ii) rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalments; (iii) provision of additional need based crop loans working capital and (iv) relaxation in security and margin norms. The guidelines also envisage provision of consumption loans upto Rs. 1,000/-. The rates of interest are to be charged by the banks as per the directives on interest rates issued by RBI from time to time. However, those borrowers who meet the eligibility criteria under the Scheme of Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) are to be provided credit in accordance with the DRI scheme. In respect of current dues in default, no penal interest will be charged. The banks also suitably defer the compounding of interest charged.

The above guidelines were issued to enable the banks to take uniform and concrete action expeditiously, particularly to provide financial assistance to agriculturists, small scale industrial units, aritisans, small businesses and trading establishments affected by natural calamities in any part of the country, including the State of Assam. However, the existing data reporting system of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for.

Export of Groundnut

5767. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of groundnut exported and oreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether there is any scope for exporting groundnut to European Union; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity and value of groundnut exported during the last three years is as under :

Quantity : in Metric tonnes
Value : in Rs. Crores

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1993-94	254207	171.12
1994-95	51123	101.32
1995-96 (P)	1000953	224.35

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India Published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Satistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports are :

(i) dissemination of information on international quality standards to exporters/processors;

(ii) participation in International seminars/workshops;

(iii) sponsoring delegations abroad;

(iv) arranging buyer seller meets; and

(v) participation in international trade fairs.

[Translation]

Export of Inferior Quality of Rice to Bangladesh

5768. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether inferior quality of rice has been exported to Bangladesh during April, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is likely to affect the bilateral and commercial relations between the two countries; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons/establishment found guilty in this regard and to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). A few complaints have been received alleging supply of inferior quality fo rice which are presently under investigation.

In respect of cases where it is established that actually sub-standard goods have been exported, immdiate deterrent action is initiated under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992, and the Rules framed thereunder against the concerned exporters, for cancellation/suspension of Importer-Exporter Code Number of the party concerned, without which imports or exports cannot be undertaken by him, and for imposition of fiscal penalties.

Such isolated incidents would not effect the relations between the two countries.

[English]

Despatch of Coal

5769. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the quantum of coal despatched by different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited for each of the last five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Coal despatched by